SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Is it some new scheme? They had not demanded and the Planning Commission has given them the money.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: We have a number of schemes. The schemes are the second scheme of JRY and the third scheme of JRY. Some of the blocks have been covered under tribal areas and hill areas.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: He is asking, why rupees seven crores were given.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: We have enhanced it. The normal JRY is generally provided to different States for growth. But enhanced schemes are there.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is it due to escalation in cost or due to new projects?

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: No, Madam. This is additional because more blocks and more areas are being covered.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We should be happy because they have asked for less and have got more which is very unusual.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam, through you I would like to know whether the Government is aware that so far as implementation of the scheme for rural development is concerned, a lot of schemes remain unimplemented because of the non cooperation of the commercial banks. In one programme which is called the IRDP, there is a major bank component in it. It is found that when the beneficiaries which are families belonging to below the povertyline category approach these banks, the banks refuse to extend the loan because they do not have the capacity to pay back. Is the Government aware of this situation where a lot of money which is allocated does not get translated in terms of implementation because of the non-cooperation of the banks? What is the State-wise breakup of such non-implemented amounts?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is related only to Gujarat. I am not going to extend it, okay.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Bank loan is one of the components under the IRDP and we are aware of it. The RBI has set new guidelines for the bank for releasing of loans. After analysis the information received, we find that it is difficult sometimes for the banks to give loans. We have formulated new schemes and have set new guidelines for the banks. As regards the details regarding how money has been provided and the loan component under the IRDP for Gujarat is concerned, I shall furnish the information.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam, the money remains unused. The money which is allocated by way of budgetary allocation, because of non-availability of loans for schemes, remains unimplemented.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What he is saying is that because funds are not available with the banks, the schemes do not get funds. They remain incomplete. That is the problem. He is enquiring about it.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: I shall certainly get the information.

*642. [The Questioner (Shri Ramdas Agarwal) was absent. For Answer vide col....2infra].

Wages of unskilled workers in coal sector

*643. SHRI SANATAN RISI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the monthly, wage, minimum guranateed benefit and D.A. of an unskilled worker working in coal sector; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) In terms of National Coal Wage Agreement-IV, the minimum total monthly wage of the lowest category surface worker as on 30.6.1991 was Rs. 1903.70. Under the new wage agreement commencing from 1.7.1991, these wages will increase substantially. Details are in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) & (b) The representatives of the management and workers have on 29.4.1995 signed a Memorandum of Understanding providing, inter alia, for a minimum guaranteed benefit of Rs. 85.00 per month and above the Interim Relief already allowed w.e.f 1-7-1991 @ 10 per cent of basic wage plus DA as on 30.6.1991 subject to a minimum of Rs. 150.00 per month. In terms of this MOU total wages of the lowest paid Category-I surface employee as on 1.7.1991 would be Rs. 2138.70. Variable DA is payable in addition based on the increase in the All India Consumers Price Index (AICPI) for industrial workers after 1.7.1991.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Madam, my question was very clear. It was regarding unskilled workers working in the coal sector. But the answer is concerned with the lowest category surface worker. I would like to know from the Minister whether there are unskilled workers working in underground mines.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Yes. They are working in the underground mines also, for which special underground allowances are paid. As I have stated, this is the minimum that is paid to the workers.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: I wanted to know...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He wants to know exactly how reach they are paid when they work in the underground mines.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Madam, according to the new wage agreement entered into on the 29th of April, this year, the underground allowances will be payable at the rate of 20 per cent of the new basic wage minus Rs. 600/- with effect from the 1st of July, 1993.

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: The Government was delaying a lot the constitution of the wage boards or the wage committees for the coal sector. In the previous term also, there was unusual delay. This time also there was a delay of four to five years'. Instead of bringing about a settlement through the wage negotiating mechanism, the Government is unusually delaying the constitution of the wage boards. As a result of this, there was a serious labour unrest. In the Singareni collieries also, there was a protracted strike this year. Earlier also, there was a strike only for the implementation of the wage board recommendations. I would like to know why the Government was delaying the constitution of the wage boards and the arriving at of a settlement.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: It is not correct that the Government delayed the matter. It appears that since 1991, there were serious disputes amongst the trade unions as to how many members from each union will represent—that is, how many from the INTUC, how many from the CITU and how many from the other organisations. Therefore, there was a dispute. The Government tried to resolve these disputes. In the meantime, one of the unions went to court and obtained an order of injunction, which was vacated, if my memory is not failing, in November last year. The CII immediately took it up and started dialogue with them. A case on the lawful dues to the colliery workers, which was pending since 1991, was mutually settled. An MOU was entered into on the sitting of 28th and 29th of April, 1995. Therefore, it is not the fault of the Government.

श्री ल० मो० राम प्रधान : उपसभापति महोदया, कोयला विभाग में कई बार नई-नई जगहों पर नई कोयला खदानें प्रारम्भ की जाती हैं। मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ इलाके में भी कई नई कोयला

खदानें प्रारम्भ की गई हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि जहां नई खदानें प्रारम्भ होती है, वहां क्या अकुशल मजदूर और अकुशल कर्मचारी तथा क्लर्क वगैरह के लिए स्थानीय निवासियों को प्राथमिकता देने के लिए सरकार की कोई नीति है या कोई ऐसा निर्देश है कि स्थानीय निवासियों को भरती में अकुशल मजदूर क्षेत्रों में और खास करके क्लर्क वर्गों में उन्हें प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: I couldn't follow it. If it is about employment, it goes through the Employment Exchanges and the usual procedure is followed. The unions also keep a watch. There are various procedures, like appointment on compassionate grounds, appointment on the basis whether it is for skilled or unskilled work, etc. There are some appointments for which advertisements are given in the newspapers. The local Employment Exchanges are taken into consideration.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you take the local Employment Exchanges into consideration?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Certainly. Yes, Madam.

HRI JIBON ROY: While signing the wage agreement for the coal sector this year, an unprecedented development has taken place. One of the major trade unions has been kept out of the agreement. The Ministry and the CIL took to pains to pursue with the union which has been kept out of the agreement. This will cause a heavy penalty to the industry. And, you have signed, probably, far below the level signed in other agreements. I wish that you will clarify this matter as to why this has happened which never happened during the last 25 years.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is it a question or a statement?

SHRI JIBON ROY: Why has this happened?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Taking it as a question, Madam, it appears, the CITU union was present all through the negotiations. All other unions in India and the management agreed. The CITU union was present throughout. They did not sign it. It was done on 29th April, 1995—up till now, no representation has been received from any of the unions or from the CITU union that they did not agree to the MOU that was entered into; no objection has been raised.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Mr. Minister, it is not a good tactics.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: उपसभापति महोदया, माननीय मंत्री जी ने लोकल मजदूरों को अप्वाइंटमेंट मे प्राथमिकता देने की बात कही है या विचार करने की बात कही है। इस पर मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि आपके यहां एक क्राइटेरिया नहीं है। वेस्ट बंगाल में लैण्ड लूजर्स को ज्यादा मिलता है, वैस्टर्न कोल फील्ड में कम मिलता है, बिहार कोल फील्ड में कम मिलता है। तो जो लैण्ड लूजर्स हैं, जिनको इम्पलाईमेन्ट देते हैं क्या उनके बारे में स्टैण्डर्डाज्ड रूल्स कोल इण्डिया बनाएगा या गवर्नमेन्ट डाइरेक्ट करेगी?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Madam, as I have stated, names are also asked for from the local employment exchanges; there is no question of priority because there is no question of priority because. are other categories also like land-losers. compassionate ground appointment where the father who was coal employee die in an accident suddenly. We have to give appointment to the widows immediately for their survival. State to State differences regarding land loser are not with me.

If the Hon'ble Member writes to me, I will find it out and inform the hon. Member. Of course, knowing the hon. Member as I do, he knows the answer also.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: That is why I told you that there should be one standard all over India, whether it is Western India or Central India. There should be one standard for the land-loser This is what I have demanded

THE DEFUTY CHAIRMAN: Please keep it in mind.

*644. [The Questioner (Shri Hanumantha Rao) was absent. For Answer Vide Col... infra]

*645. [The Questioner (Shri Suresh Kalmadi) was absent. For Answer Vide col... infra].

National Commission of child labourers

*646. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated the National Commission on Child in the interest of the child labourers working in the various private factories/industries in the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) the progress made in reducing the number of child labourers in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There is no proposal to set up a National Commission on Child Labour.

(b) and (c) Government have already taken several steps to tackle the problem of child labour. A comprehensive law, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act was enacted in 1986. As per the National Child Labour Policy, 1987 Child Labour is being tackled through (a) Legislation (b) General Development programmes for benefit of children and (c) through implementation of National Child Labour Projects. In September, 1994, the National Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour was constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Labour.

In addition, to safeguard the interest of children, there are protective provisions in various labour laws as well, such as the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, the motor Transport (Workers) Act, 1961 etc. The approach of the Government is to implement all the child related provisions of the laws in a harmonous fashion. Enforcement machinery at the Central and State levels exist to enforce the provisions of these Acts. Employers are liable to be prosecuted for violations of the provisions of the Acts. Enforcement personnel are being given special training for better enforcement of these laws. Th Human Rights Commission also looks into problems of Child Labour. As such, it is felt that there is no need to set up a National Commission on child Labour.

(d) and (e) Under the National Child Labour Projects Scheme of the Ministry of Labour, presently 12 projects are under implementation in 8 States covering approximately 14,000 children. India is also a participant in the International Labour Organisation's, International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). There are 89 IPEC programmes in 13 States covering approximately 55,000 children.

The Natinoal Authority for the Elimination of Child Labour has also adopted a plan of action titled "Identification, Release and Rehabilitation of Child Labour to tackle the problem of child labour in the country. Briefly, it calls for a convergence of services and schemes of the Central